



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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PREP Resource Guide to Help Indiana Students Prepare for High School, College, and Careers

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Education, and IBJ Corp., with support from The Sallie Mae Fund, have developed a new resource guide, called *PREP*, to assist the state's eighth grade students in making informed choices in high school and planning for future college and career opportunities.

"Research has shown that completing rigorous courses in high school is the strongest predictor of college and workplace success," said Stan Jones, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education. "*PREP* allows us to tell students early that preparing for the future begins by setting high expectations and taking rigorous Core 40 and Academic Honors courses."

Written in an easy-to-read style and presented in an eye-catching format, *PREP* is designed to help students make a smooth transition to high school, recognize the importance of postsecondary education, and understand the need to take rigorous academic courses in high school.

"Helping more students pursue education beyond high school is our mission at The Sallie Mae Fund, and we are pleased to offer support for resources like *PREP* that assist students in preparing and planning for their futures," said Susan Corsini, Chairman of The Sallie Mae Fund.

In January, Indiana middle schools will distribute *PREP* to nearly 90,000 eighth grade students across the state. School guidance counselors and teachers will use *PREP* during student class scheduling sessions, in the classroom as a learning resource, and at "parent night" meetings.

In addition, a companion piece to *PREP*, the Indiana Guidance Portfolio, will provide school counselors with a useful tool for helping each student develop an individualized four-year plan for high school. Beginning in eighth grade and continuing through high school, students will work to complete the guidance portfolio with their counselor, allowing students to measure their progress over time and ensure they are on track to realize their goals.

"By involving counselors, students, and parents in the planning process, *PREP* and the Indiana Guidance Portfolio can help create a dialogue for meeting the needs and goals of each student," said Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

PREP joins two other student resource guides, *NEXT* and *GRAD*, which are supported by the state and published by IBJ Corp. First published in 2000, *NEXT* provides all Indiana high school students (Grades 11 and 12) with comprehensive information about the many college, university, training, and career opportunities available in the state. *GRAD* magazine joined *NEXT* in 2001 as a way to connect college students with postgraduate and employment opportunities within the state.

"Collectively, *PREP*, *NEXT*, and *GRAD* reach students during key transitional periods in their educational careers and provide them with the information they need to reach informed decisions," said Pat Keiffner, Publisher of *PREP*, *NEXT*, and *GRAD*.

To see an online version of *PREP*, please visit www.indprep.com.